

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02854 282240Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 SAB-02 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /088 W
-----016528 282246Z /42

O R 282214Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7123
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2854

CARACAS FOR ASST SEC'Y TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CO, PN
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO SENATE ACTION ON PANAMA CANAL
NEUTRALITY TREATY

REF: (A) STATE 069647; (B) BOGOTA 2547

1. IN DISCUSSING THE RATIFICATION OF THE PANAM CANAL
NEUTRALITY TREATY WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 27, PRESIDENT
LOPEZ SAID THAT HE FELT THAT THE DE CONCINI RESERVATION CON-
TRAVENED THE RIO TREATY AND THE OAS CHARTER REGARDING NON-
INTERVENTION. LOPEZ ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH TORRIJOS HAS
NOT CALLED HIM, HE KNOWS THAT TORRIJOS HAS BEEN "CALLING
AROUND" AND IS VERY MUCH BOTHERED BY THE ADDITIONS TO THE
TREATY.

2. OTHER LOCAL REACTIONS TO THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OF THE
TREATY HAVE BEEN LIMITED BUT GENERALLY
FAVORABLE. IN THE ONLY PUBLICIZED OFFICIAL COMMENT, PRESIDENT
LOPEZ, ANTICIPATING RATIFICATION, EARLIER HAD EMPHASIZED
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COLOMBIA'S INTEREST IN THE CANAL AND HAD REFERRED TO THE
ATTITUDE OF THE USG AS ONE OF "UNDERSTANDING" (REF B).
LOCAL PRESS GAVE ROUTINE COVERAGE TO THE EVENT WITH
EDITORIALS, ONE FAVORABLE AND ONE NEGATIVE, APPEARING
IN ONLY TWO OF THE MAJOR DAILIES. THE FEW NEGATIVE COMMENTS
INCLUDED ONE ARTICLE BY CONSERVATIVE ALFREDO VAZQUEZ
CARRIZOSA, FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER THE PREVIOUS 1970-1974

PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION, ALLEGING THAT THE SENATE'S ADDITIONS TO THE TREATY SIGNIFY CONTINUED U.S. INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. COMMENT: COLOMBIA'S DEEP INTEREST IN THE TREATIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF MODERATION. MOST INFORMED COLOMBIANS SEEM TO BE RESERVING COMMENT UNTIL THE OTHER SHOE DROPS. REACTIONS THEN, PRESUMING RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY IN ITS PRESENT FORM, ARE EXPECTED TO BE MORE CLEARLY FAVORABLE. ASECIO

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Message Attributes

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